



CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT Aircraftsman

CCAD lends support to soldiers and families



photos by Lois Contreras

The Swails family (l-r) Jimmy Belcher, son-in-law; Courtney Belcher, daughter; Evelyn Bowen, mother-in-law; Kayla Swails, daughter; Dub Bowen, father-in-law; Stacy Swails, daughter, and Judith Swails, spouse, share a laugh with Staff Sgt. Artie Swails, 887th Quartermaster Company, USA Reserve unit deployed to Kuwait via VTC in the CCAD Cribbins Conference Room.

On the afternoons of Sat. and Sun., Sep. 13 and 14, CCAD hosted video teleconferences (VTC) for families of soldiers from the 887th Quartermaster Company, USAR, deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Family members from Alice and the surrounding area visited the Cribbins Conference Room in CCAD headquarters for a chance to

visit with their deployed loved one for ten minutes. When asked why the VTC is so much better than talking to a loved one by phone or email, Courtney Belcher, daughter of Staff Sgt. Artie Swails commented, "It's more personal than the phone or email."

"I know his morale is good," said Jose Arevalo, a veteran of the Korean

(See "VTC" continued on page 5)

Aviation program XO visits CCAD

Maj. Gen. Joseph Bergantz, program executive officer for Army aviation (shown at right in photo), visited CCAD on Sept. 11 for orientation and tour of the depot facilities. During the tour of the engine shops, Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander (l) compares new GG rotors to rotors which have



Inside this issue:

CCAD field teams support warfighters onsite	2
CC Chapter AAAA awards scholarships	3
Around the depot—in the transmission shop	3
Awards	4
Crime Stoppers	6

been damaged by sand in the desert environment. Also seen in photo are Maj. Randy Murray (2nd from left) from the UH program manager's office and Joe Herrera, director of engine production (2nd from right).

CCAD field teams support warfighters onsite

by Lois Contreras
CCAD Public Affairs

When the soldier in the field needs help getting an aircraft flying again, who does he call? The CCAD depot field teams, of course. Regardless of whether the “field” happens to be in the continental United States or half-way around the world, the CCAD field teams respond within 24 hours. Only one thing keeps the team from responding earlier—the mode of transportation utilized.

Last May, the flexible engine diagnostic system (FEDS) team received a call for assistance in setting up FEDS at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Ron Rice, CCAD electrical technician with the directorate of production management and Eddie Lira, contract employee with Information Network Systems, found themselves on the way via a military transport plane that broke down in Cyprus and sat on the runway with all passengers onboard for seven hours while undergoing repairs. The trip to Kuwait turned out to be a 56-hour flight.

Once at Camp Arifjan, the two found that logistics did not improve.

They remained in Kuwait three weeks due to the long, slow process in obtaining required parts.

“We had to use an almost pre-historic piece of equipment due to the problems we had getting equipment from TMDE to Kuwait,” said Lira, referring to the Mansfield Green calibrator he used to perform calibration of the FEDS.

“The people there were great,” stated Rice, referring to both the U.S. personnel and Kuwaiti people with whom they came in contact during their stay. “The biggest problem we encountered was getting the equipment we needed.”

The FEDS is a portable engine test cell manufactured at CCAD and used by each branch of the armed services around the world. Its value is realized in a unit’s ability to test aircraft engines onsite rather than having to send them out for testing—a definite enhancement to ensuring unit readiness. The FEDS equipment the CCAD team set up is owned by the Connecticut AVCRAD who transported the system with them on their deployment.

Javier Garcia, machinist in the directorate of manufacturing/process production, traveled to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan last November to work on CH-47 engine mounts. Upon his arrival close to midnight local time



Ron Rice, CCAD electrical technician (shown with back to camera), confers with members of the CT AVCRAD during a trip to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to set up the flexible engine diagnostic system (FEDS) test cell calibration for testing T55 and T700 series engines. Due to the extreme heat during the day, the team worked during the night.

and after an 18-hour flight, he met the unit commander who told him to take a day off and report to work the following day. Anxious to get to work, and displaying the dedication for which the CCAD employee is known, Garcia told the commander he was ready to go to work.

“I told him I didn’t need a day off,” said Garcia. “After all, I was there because they needed my help.”

The work site was a makeshift hangar where they worked from sunup to sundown due to lack of lighting. Even with the adverse conditions, Garcia says he is ready to go anywhere, anytime, and enjoys the experience.



Eddie Lira (seen above in green), contract employee with Info Network Systems at CCAD, checks the Mansfield Green calibrator, an “almost prehistoric” piece of equipment, which the CCAD FEDS team had to use due to logistics problems encountered in getting required instrumentation from TMDE to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. A member of the CT AVCRAD deployed to Kuwait is also seen at left.

CC Chapter, Army Aviation Association of America awards scholarships



Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander and president, Corpus Christi Chapter, AAAA, presented two scholarships in the amount of \$625 each at the annual chapter scholarship award ceremony on August 7. Nicko Cantu (2nd from left in photo at left), son of CCAD employees Juan (shown at left) and Janie Cantu (2nd from right) and Angelica Recio (2nd from right in photo at right), daughter of CCAD employees Oscar (shown at left in photo) and Bernie Recio (2nd from left). For more information on AAAA scholarships, contact Annette Cross at X14645 or email across@ccad.army.mil.

Around the depot - in the transmission shop



CCAD employees Jesse Guevara (l) and Maria Cooper (formerly Sgt. Cooper in the CCAD Reserve Components Office), transmission parts repair helpers in the UH-60 transmission shop, are seen disassembling a Blackhawk transmission in preparation for the rebuild process. Both employees are recent hires in the worker-helper series.



Ponciano Garcia (l) and Danny Martinez, aircraft overhaul trades helpers, also from the transmission shop, assemble an Apache transmission and prepare to run backlash process.

A W A R D S



Benjamin Wagon, chief, engine induction/final test and cell (I), received an on-the-spot cash award from Joe Herrera, director, engine production. The citation recognized Wagon's forty-plus years of service and for his part in reducing the turn around time for the T55 engine from 450 hours to 220 hours.



Pete Barrientes, chief, engine test cell in the directorate of engine production, presented an On-the-Spot cash award to Diego Vega, Jr. for leading the resolution and correction of non-compliance violations incurred in HAZMAT satellites #5 and #229. Vega is credited with preventing possible fines for the depot from the EPA.



Barrientes also presented a 20-year length of service award to George Garcia, from the directorate of engine production's PSA/Records and E&E disassembly branch.



Barrientes also presented a 2500-hour sick leave pin and certificate to Hilario Villarreal from the directorate of engine production's T-55 engine assembly branch.



Employees in the directorate of engine production recently received their 500-hour sick leave certificate and pin from Rey Cortez (in dark pants and glasses), supervisor in the T55 engine assembly branch. Pictured with Cortez are: *(left photo)* John Chavez; *(center photo)* Pedro M. Figirova; and *(right photo)* Ramon Gonzalez.

Technology brings troops home if only for the day

(“VTC” continued from page 1)

conflict, after talking to his son, Sgt. Arevalo, “but it’s a wonderful thing that we can do this.”



Kenny Jones, aged 6, shows his dad, Staff Sgt. Roger Jones his missing front teeth as mom Maria (r), watches his reaction.



Courtney Belcher (l), answers questions from David Randall, KZTV reporter after the VTC with her dad, Staff Sgt. Swails.

“I know his morale is good,”... ”but it’s a wonderful thing that we can do this.”



The largest group to participate in the video teleconference on Sat. afternoon was the family of Sgt. 1st Class Troy Lopez. Shown in photo above (front row, l-r) are: Josephine Torres, maternal grandmother; Anthony Lopez, son; Chris Lopez, wife; Alex Lopez, son; Concepcion Lopez, mother; Josefa Lopez, paternal grandmother; (back row l-r) Faustino Lopez, father; Billy Lopez, brother; Pearl Brock (sitting), sister; Nia Brock, niece; and, Toby Brock, brother-in-law. When grandmother Josefa said, “Hi, it’s Nana,” Lopez replied, “I miss you, your tortillas and fideo.” Nana told Lopez they will be waiting for him when he returns home.

“Remember 9/11. That is the reason you’re there.”



Fred Woolsey (l), friend of the family, accompanied the family of Sgt. Arevalo to the VTC. Jose Arevalo (c), a veteran of the Korean conflict, and Sgt. Arevalo’s father, told his son, “Remember 9/11. That’s the reason you’re there.” Graciela Arevalo, mother, is shown at right.

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT

COL JAMES J. BUDNEY, JR.
DEPOT COMMANDER

The Aircraftsman
Public Affairs Office
308 Crecy Street
Mail Stop 19
Corpus Christi, Texas 78419

Phone: (361) 961-3627
Fax: (361) 961-3039
Email: lois.contreras@us.army.mil

Lois Contreras
Public Affairs Officer

Sharon Haynes
Protocol

Our Products Reflect Our Pride

We're on the Web!
www.ccad.army.mil

Parting words

I feel extremely privileged to be one of the first two participants in the Training with Industry (TWI) Program here at Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD). This is truly a training event that I will draw from for the rest of my life. The training that takes place at CCAD is the only real-time training program of its kind. I trained with artisans who have an average of 20 years' experience in supporting each product line or weapon system.



It will be impossible to sufficiently describe the wealth and depth of experience and training I have been privileged to receive. The most rewarding training event for me was the daily interaction with the heart and soul of Corpus Christi Army Depot, the people. The mechanics, artisans, technicians, support personnel, supervisors, managers, and leaders of this depot are the real treasure I discovered in this industry. I will never forget the overwhelming and unanimous desire of these people to give the warfighter the very best aircraft and components they can provide.

My next assignment is with New Systems Aviation Branch, Fort Eustis, VA. I will be working as a project officer on the Comanche, AH-64D and the E and F Model Chinook.

So many have reached out in support of me over the past year that it is humbling, at times. Our soldiers need the continued support of CCAD and I have no doubt that the candle of hope will continue to burn here in Corpus Christi for our service members defending our country and our way of life.

Sincerely, Ed Adams, CW3, USA

(Editor's note: CW3 Eddie Adams, an 18-year career soldier, lives with his wife Becky and sons Zachary, (12) and Nathan (6), in Corpus Christi.)

Portable engine test cell a plus in the field



courtesy photo

Steel beams in photo above at Bagran Air Base, Afghanistan, turn a strip of desert sand into an airfield for Blackhawks and Chinooks seen in the background. CCAD machinist Javier Garcia traveled to Bagran to work on Chinook engine mounts last November.



Photo by Lois Contreras

Javier Garcia, CCAD machinist in the directorate of manufacturing/process production, works on a Chinook engine mount such as the ones he worked on during his TDY to Afghanistan last November.

Crime Stoppers

Request anyone having knowledge of the recent break ins of vending machines in Bldg 8 and Hangar 43 break rooms, please call Ed Preusee, CCAD Investigator at X13313 or X13314. Any and all information will be handled anonymously.